

statutory standards such as affordable housing goals; and appropriate capital requirements.

In order to safeguard the continued viability of the Federal Home Loan Bank system, any changes to its fundamental mission should receive adequate congressional scrutiny.

IN HONOR OF **ETHEL D. PEOPLES**

### **HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ethel Davis Peoples or over 34 years of dedicated service to the children and families of Jersey City. Upon her retirement, she was honored at Casino in the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Saturday, December 7, 2002.

Mrs. Peoples, an exemplary citizen and active participant in the community, spent over 30 years working at the Jersey City Child Development Centers, Inc. She started her career working as a temporary food service employee, and her outstanding work led to a full-time position. Over the years, Mrs. Peoples has worked in several Head Start Centers, and has been a joy to work with as she shares her positive outlook with everyone.

Mrs. Peoples also invested countless hours as a volunteer worker with young adults at the Teen Post of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), located on Bergen Avenue. She was honored and recognized by the CYO for her devoted service and tireless work.

Mrs. Peoples, a great-grandmother, is also the mother of seven and grandmother of eleven.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ethel D. Peoples for enriching the lives of so many throughout our community and at the Jersey City Child Development Center, Inc.

### **SUSPENSION OF FURTHER TSP REDUCTIONS UNDER THE 2001 TAX ACT**

### **HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will ask a simple question. Do Members of Congress feel that the threats posed by Iraq, North Korea, and terrorism are sufficiently real that all Americans should bear some sacrifice in responding to those threats?

Our Nation in times of war always has responded by requiring sacrifices from all segments of our society. Individuals in our military are asked to bear the highest sacrifice. They are forced to leave their homes and risk their lives overseas. Those fortunate enough to remain at home during the war have been asked to support the military through rationing, increased taxes, or diversion of government resources from domestic programs.

The President's rhetoric about the seriousness of the risk posed by Iraq and terrorism is inconsistent with his actual program. He places our military at risk but does not ask all

other segments of our society to sacrifice for the cause. Only the poor will be forced to sacrifice through reductions in the domestic safety net. Other segments of our society are promised tax reductions, not sacrifice, with the greatest tax reductions enjoyed by the wealthiest segment of our society.

The Department of Defense surveys clearly indicate that both active-duty and reserve members of the Armed Forces are primarily from low-income families. The fact that only one member of the Congress has a child in the enlisted ranks of the military is stark confirmation of the accuracy of those surveys. However every Member of Congress, by virtue of their congressional salary alone, will have sufficient income to enjoy large tax reductions under the Bush Administration policy.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that I am introducing today will not increase taxes on any American above the level that is currently in effect. It simply suspends all further tax reductions under the 2001 Tax Act until the President certifies that the situations in Iraq and North Korea have been resolved, there has been an adequate response to international terrorism, and no member of the Armed Services is involuntarily on duty because of those situations.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the sacrifices required by my legislation do not meet the standard that this country has required in the past. It will not increase taxes, it will simply defer future tax reductions. Our seriousness about pursuing action overseas will be highly questionable if this Congress does not require that small sacrifice from those so fortunate to be able to stay at home.

I recognize that some will attack my legislation as being "class warfare." I would respond to that criticism by pointing out that all future tax reductions under the 2001 Act would be deferred by my legislation, including the limited benefits promised to lower income individuals. I recognize that the wealthiest segment of our society would have the largest benefits subject to deferral. However, that fact is not my doing, it is a simple reflection of the unfair nature of the 2001 Act.

The administration and many Republican Members of the Congress have vociferously attacked the legislation that I introduced earlier to reinstate the draft. It is clear that they do not believe that their cause in Iraq is of sufficient importance to risk the lives of their children. Now I am asking whether it is sufficiently important to sacrifice tax benefits promised in the future.

### **TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. JOHNSON**

### **HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Robert L. Johnson.

In 1980, Mr. Johnson launched Black Entertainment Television (BET) with the help of a \$15,000 loan. Under Mr. Johnson's leadership, BET Holdings Inc. expanded, and in 1991 became the first African-American-owned Company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Johnson has since expanded the

core BET network to include a theatrical film company, a book publishing division and restaurants. BET has flourished as the leading African American multimedia entertainment company, now reaching more than 65 million U.S. homes and more than 90% of all African-American cable households.

On December 12, 2002, the National Basketball Association awarded Robert Johnson an expansion franchise in Charlotte, NC, making him not only the first African American to own an NBA franchise, but also the first African-American to own a major professional sports team in North America.

The selection of Mr. Johnson completes a long series of achievements by African-Americans in the NBA. Earl Lloyd became the NBA's first African-American player in 1950. Bill Russell became the league's first African-American head coach in 1966. Wayne Embry became the league's first African-American general manager in 1972. Today, 85 percent of the NBA's rosters are filled with African-Americans, and 12 of the 29 coaches in the league are African-Americans.

It was his individual skills, his demonstrated ability to build organizations, and his success in business and media that earned Robert Johnson such a grand accomplishment. He will be an example for other team owners as he has committed to giving African-Americans opportunities within his team's management structure.

I would like to recognize the historical significance of Robert L. Johnson becoming the first African-American to own a majority portion of a major sports team in the United States and North America. I salute Mr. Johnson for his outstanding achievements and work as an African American businessman and leader. I commend the NBA in choosing Mr. Johnson to own the new Charlotte franchise, and I salute the league's understanding of the importance of diversity in making its selection. I would also like to encourage further efforts within the NBA and other professional sports to support minority ownership and management of team franchises.

### **SHERIFF GARY T. CARLSON**

### **HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 29, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merced County Sheriff Gary T. Carlson. Sheriff Carlson was born in Iowa and raised in Illinois and graduated from Cathedral High School in Chicago, Illinois.

At the age of 18, Gary joined the United States Air Force and after basic training was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California. After over two years at Castle, he received orders to Vietnam. Gary returned to the U.S. in April 1970 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant at McCord Air Force Base in Seattle, Washington.

Gary again returned to Merced, California and attended Merced College studying in the area of Sociology. He applied for and was hired as a Merced County Deputy Sheriff in October 1971. His first assignment was working in the Jail Division. Sixteen months later, he was assigned to the midnight shift Patrol Division, then to the Detective Division. Gary